

Abstract of the Disclosure

[0087] A monitoring system and method that can detect and capture an image at a monitored position as an analog video signal, and in response, convert the analog video signal into a digital video signal for enlargement, analysis and storage of detected facial images therein.. The system comprises a candidate area detection unit for comparing a color difference signal level of the converted digital video signal with a reference range for detecting at least one skin color candidate area. The system further comprises a control unit for outputting a zooming control signal to the image-capturing unit to capture enlarged images of each detected skin color candidate area and a face detection unit for detecting a face video signal from the enlarged images. A compression/recording unit is provided for then compressing and recording the detected face image video signal, and allowing a user to easily perform a search for a subject's face when searching recorded video data.